## 292 SIMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND BEFORMEB

ally see? The writer is not certain, and in a
case of uncer-
tainty it is best to stay one's pen. But when
Mr. Cock
returned he said in presence of the defendant,
his son, and
Mr. Oluer, that the Solicitor-general was not
leniently in-
clined and that Vizetelly's recognisances "to bo
of good
behaviour " would have to be estreated; while-
the Eeeordor,
Sir Thomas Chambers, held that there must bo
some im-
prisonment. Did Henry Vizetelly hear those last
words ?
According to his own account, afterwards, he
never did; for
had he done so, in spite of all Mr. Cook's bluster,
he would
never, he said, have pleaded guilty. But the
poor man may
well have misunderstood his counsel. He was
in a condi-
tion little short of actual physical collapse. In
a dreamy
way, as it were, he gave, or seemed to give, a
feeble assent
to everything. Had there been time, his son
would
made an effort to reopen the question, for it
occurred to
him that, even then, one might perhaps have
dispensed
with Mr. Cock's services and have induced Mr.
Cluer to
undertake the defence unaided. But there was
no oppor-
tunity for further deliberation; the court was
almost wait-
ing, and one went downstairs to meet the
inevitable.
The proceedings were brief. Vizotelly took

his stand at the foot of the solicitors' table, his son who sat there, and who at every moment feared to see him fall, holding his hand the .while. For an instant, when challenged, lie hesitated, then ejaculated the word "guilty," much as if he were expectorating.

Thus the case was never argued on its merits.

Of course the Solicitor-general held that the previous undertaking had been violated, and asked that the defendant's recognisances in two hundred pounds should be estreated. Then Mr. Cock